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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending November 7, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

Released November 8, 2004, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Average Week for Field Work: Parts of the Keystone were afforded sunshine and windy conditions, allowing much needed drying out to take place. However, many parts of the state received moderate rainfall, further drenching areas in desperate need of relief. Four days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, feeding livestock, harvesting corn, soybeans, and sorghum, planting wheat, applying manure, conducting soil tests, and preparing for winter.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending November 7, 2004

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	68	32

Crops: Seventy-five percent of corn is now harvested. Reports continue to filter in on the excellent yields many farmers in the state are seeing with this year's crop. One late season concern gaining some attention is the lack of adequate nutrients in some fields. The soybean harvest picked up slightly from the previous week but remains behind historic trends. Eighty-eight percent of this year's soybean crop is now rated as either good or excellent. Winter wheat continues to be planted at a rate consistent with historic trends. Ninety-nine percent of barley has now emerged, well ahead of the 5-year average. Eighty percent of sorghum had been harvested as of last week. The hay cutting season is drawing to a close as

94 percent of the 4th cutting is now complete. The quality of hay made this past week did improve slightly as 49 percent of hay was rated as either good or excellent. Only 15 percent of the hay made was rated as either very poor or poor.

Livestock: Pasture and range conditions are no longer being graded for the 2004 crop season. Farmers continue to rotate animals from field to field throughout the state.

U.S. As of October 31, 2004: Highlights: Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the eastern two-thirds of the Nation, with temperatures averaging over 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal throughout the Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, Delta, and across much of the Great Plains and Atlantic Coast States. The warm weather was favorable to winter wheat emergence, and summer crop development was mostly complete in these areas. Corn: Growers had harvested 65 percent of their acreage, 16 percentage points behind last year and 15 points behind the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Planting advanced to 89 percent complete, 3 points behind last year but the same as normal. Seventy-seven percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 76 percent last year and 74 percent for the 5-year average. Soybeans: Harvest, at 84 percent complete, was 6 points behind last year and 5 points behind normal. Harvesting was hampered by frequent showers across much of the growing area, advancing only 4 points nationwide during the week.

Weather Data For Week Ending November 7, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - November 7, 2004					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	63	34	50	4	1.11	3	29.69	2.34	96	2,807	166	4,805
Franklin	72	33	48	5	1.03	4	41.73	12.96	114	2,629	220	4,636
Meadville	67	36	48	5	1.10	4	36.77	7.50	103	2,471	267	4,429
Mercer	71	27	47	3	0.83	4	35.12	7.78	94	2,069	-315	3,972
Springboro	62	32	48	2	1.52	4	38.45	12.12	117	2,399	-184	4,348
Warren	68	31	48	5	1.22	2	43.58	14.34	122	2,460	137	4,429
North Central												
Bradford Region	68	26	44	5	0.85	2	30.23	1.32	106	2,009	354	3,860
Emporium	68	29	46	5	0.75	2	39.59	11.11	107	2,602	717	4,568
Kane	64	22	40	0	0.96	2	36.59	6.94	96	1,250	-364	2,917
Laporte	61	29	43	0	0.61	2	47.41	20.59	116	2,216	-161	4,076
Lock Haven	69	31	49	5	0.63	2	47.23	20.95	90	2,927	397	4,982
Port Allegany	67	28	45	5	1.31	3	35.07	7.42	105	2,174	338	4,057
Renovo	68	32	48	5	0.75	2	38.41	12.13	110	2,838	308	4,875
Ridgway	71	29	46	5	0.92	2	38.88	10.40	91	2,145	260	4,048
Stevenson Dam	68	31	48	7	0.90	3	40.71	12.23	100	2,695	810	4,702
Towanda	69	30	47	4	0.36	2	34.91	12.56	96	2,718	320	4,705
Wellsboro	61	27	45	5	0.60	2	40.56	18.10	101	2,117	337	3,999
Williamsport	67	29	49	4	0.34	2	37.95	11.62	108	3,103	313	5,183
Northeast												
Hawley	65	26	44	1	0.74	1	39.59	14.26	80	2,305	264	4,194
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	68	30	47	3	0.55	2	32.91	8.39	89	2,838	193	4,858
Susquehanna	65	27	45	4	0.44	2	40.49	13.12	95	2,759	836	4,743
West Central												
Butler	75	35	48	5	0.93	3	39.93	13.04	116	2,606	106	4,598
New Castle	75	34	50	6	0.86	3	41.17	16.38	89	2,923	419	4,947
Slippery Rock	73	38	50	7	0.86	3	39.68	13.15	111	2,719	477	4,751
Central												
Altoona/Blair	70	36	50	5	0.29	2	38.65	14.78	107	2,788	126	4,789
DuBois	71	33	47	5	0.93	2	39.36	12.29	130	2,427	150	4,376
Lewistown	69	36	51	5	0.58	2	36.69	11.08	86	3,113	188	5,187
Middletown	71	37	52	5	0.51	1	41.56	16.09	93	3,593	272	5,728
Prince Gallitzi	71	30	47	5	0.64	3	38.71	8.29	98	2,431	302	4,368
Selinsgrove	70	33	50	5	0.46	2	39.55	12.91	96	2,990	272	5,033
State College	70	37	51	7	0.41	2	38.43	14.28	92	2,867	257	4,894
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	71	30	49	3	0.62	1	36.51	8.91	83	3,227	197	5,317
Lehighton	71	30	47	0	0.49	1	41.39	13.73	102	2,820	-99	4,850
Matamoras	69	26	45	1	0.51	2	35.28	7.39	85	2,503	-110	4,460
Tobyhanna	64	29	44	5	0.69	2	44.99	14.82	118	2,456	711	4,401
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	39	52	7	0.34	3	33.40	8.28	103	3,170	483	5,243
Derry	82	37	51	7	0.89	2	42.42	16.40	105	2,825	294	4,862
Myersdale	76	34	48	4	0.81	3	34.82	6.35	92	2,266	-230	4,215
Mount Pleasant	78	33	49	6	1.19	3	40.56	10.81	86	2,771	513	4,782
Pittsburgh Intl	77	38	52	6	0.79	2	37.67	14.34	100	3,191	377	5,261
Rector	81	34	50	7	1.43	4	42.94	13.19	120	2,819	561	4,836
Waynesburg	80	33	50	6	0.80	3	38.68	13.29	99	2,894	302	4,937
South Central												
Biglerville	70	37	51	4	0.77	2	40.73	16.41	95	3,258	11	5,346
Everett	73	36	51	6	0.43	3	36.08	12.58	89	2,459	-197	4,433
Hanover	74	35	52	4	0.84	1	36.18	11.86	82	3,368	121	5,458
Shippensburg	74	37	53	6	0.63	1	43.13	19.46	91	3,418	181	5,507
South Mountain	73	35	50	5	0.71	1	38.05	14.18	77	2,704	52	4,675
York	74	34	52	5	0.57	1	30.10	4.35	74	3,371	125	5,471
Southeast												
Green Lane	73	33	51	4	0.92	1	41.37	14.61	87	3,581	695	5,713
Hamburg	73	32	49	6	0.61	2	38.85	7.70	97	3,243	636	5,331
Hopewell	73	34	50	2	0.90	1	40.59	12.63	110	3,301	-136	5,405
Lancaster	72	35	51	5	0.83	1	36.13	9.13	94	3,387	327	5,506
Neshaminy Falls	74	34	51	5	1.54	1	38.75	8.10	79	3,575	558	5,709
New Holland	74	38	51	5	0.87	1	37.82	10.82	95	3,365	305	5,467
Philadelphia	76	39	54	5	1.36	1	35.07	9.16	81	3,969	405	6,130
Philadelphia NE	75	35	53	4	1.28	1	38.05	12.14	84	3,820	256	5,974
Reading	72	33	51	5	0.67	1	38.46	9.80	89	3,424	429	5,536
Valley Forge Na	75	28	50	1	1.03	1	41.13	13.17	76	3,401	-36	5,493
Willow Grove	73	34	52	5	0.43	3	31.18	0.53	88	3,533	516	5,663

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)

– With the excellent growing conditions this year, borderline nutrient soil deficiencies are showing up at harvest. Several corn fields that should have yielded well are showing small, misshapen ears. Soil tests are revealing low potash. Bean harvest is still slow due to high moisture. If the forecasters are right about this week, a lot of beans should get cut.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)

– Most potato farmers finished picking their potatoes this week. Storage remains to be a problem. Harvesting of dry corn continues and should finish up in the next couple of weeks.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Earl J Long – Wet weather is slowing the corn harvest. Surprisingly, late planted corn is yielding exceptionally well.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty – Harvest is coming along slowly. Super yields overall.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) – Harvest is coming to a close with mostly soybeans left to combine. Stored feed is being fed in our area due to pasture depletion. Mud season is quickly closing in on Crawford County.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)

– This week was a catch up week. Soybean harvest restarted late in the week following a wet early week. Corn harvest is now down to the dry grain harvest. Local mills have been filled to capacity. For those who have completed harvest, the week was spent planting cover crops. Wheat and barley fall seedings are looking good. A few attempts at late hay making started late in the week.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)

– Good weather early in the week for field work as harvesting soybeans continued to be the focus. An inch of rain Thursday slowed field work for the rest of the week. The ground is saturated now. Sun and wind will help dry it out. Many farmers are getting mud on their tires.

PERRY COUNTY, Jeremiah J. Trout

– The blustery conditions the latter part of last week helped dry soils. Harvesting of beans and corn resumed in full force.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

– Good weather during the beginning of the week allowed many farmers to harvest corn and soybeans. Yields are continuing to be very good with reports of 50% or more above the average. On Friday, showers produced 1/2 to 3/4 inches of rainfall. The winter wheat and barley continue to look very good going into the later stages of the growing season.. Activities undertaken were harvesting corn and soybeans, spreading manure, taking soil samples, and making repairs.

TIOGA COUNTY, Clair Zerby

– Working on the corn and bean harvests. Soybean moisture content is in a good range.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)

– Rain on Thursday slowed corn and soybean harvests. Producers are reporting their best yields ever. Much of the county's corn for grain remains to be harvested.

YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz

– Harvest continues as weather permits. Corn and soybeans yields still above normal. Farm and commercial grain storage remains tight.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 7, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	88	65	77
Corn, harvested	75	63	70
Barley, emerged	99	95	93
Wheat, planted	93	89	94
Wheat, emerged	82	68	78
Soybeans, harvested	57	56	64
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	94	87	91

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 7, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	2	3	9	64	22
Soybeans	1	2	9	51	37
Quality of hay made	7	8	36	32	17

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